THE letters arranged as you see them above are not in their alphabetical order as commonly considered, but I have wittingly placed and applied them according to my little philosophy, to make it known that their nature and their qualities demand that they be mingled together. In like manner, the Sciences, with the Arts, with the four Virtues, and with the Graces; also the Graces with the Virtues, with the Arts, and with the Sciences, just as we see in marquetry & mosaic work that pieces both small and large of divers colours are mingled together in such wise that they make a very beautiful and perfect work, which is called in Latin, *Opus vermiculatum, Opus tessellatum et assarotum*, whereof Pliny, in his Natural History* and Vitruvius in his book of Architecture speak amply enough for those who may wish to read & to learn. We see in the springtime that the beauty of a field and of a garden consists in the diversity & assembled multitude of divers beautiful plants and flowers, which with their odour give forth a deliciousness worthy to be called divine and to live forever.

* *Book* XXXV, 1.

FRom the figure opposite you can perceive how the noble & worthy Ancients invented the Sciences and Liberal Arts according as they could profitably be made to adapt themselves usefully to the noblest organs of the human body; & this, as I have said, to show that the perfect man should be so well equipped in learning and virtue that in all places and in all his words he will be honourable and virtuous.

SUre am I that I shall have in this, as in many another passage, critics and backbiters, but, *non pili facio*†—I care not a straw for them. I dedicate myself to the service of the public weal, to lead the unlearned to the contemplation and comprehension of well-formed letters.

† *Catullus*, X, 13; XVII, 16.

YOU can perceive that this little conceit of mine is not without foundation, seeing that I have, by means of Arithmetic & Geometry, brought all our said Attic letters into accord, to show their divine perfection. I beg my readers that, if I have conjectured aright, they will be grateful to me therefor; and if not, that they will do better, if they can, to the end that their knowledge be not *Thesaurus absconditus*, that is to say, a hidden & useless treasure. I know that there are many shrewd minds who would willingly write many excellent things if they thought they could do it well in Greek and Latin; yet they abstain from it for fear of committing some absurdity or other fault, which they dread;

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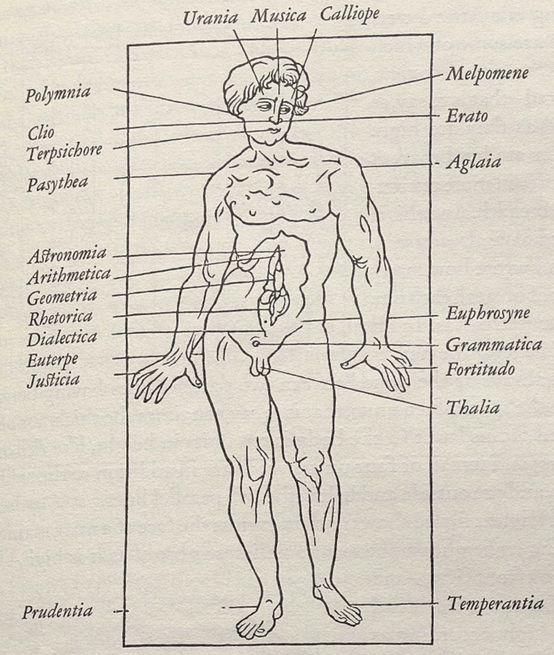

or they do not choose to write in French, esteeming the French tongue neither good enough nor elegant enough. Saving their honour, it is one of the most beautiful & graceful of all human tongues; as I have shown, in the First Book, by the authority of eminent Ancient Writers, Poets and Orators, both Latin and Greek.

WE have observed the agreement & harmony between our letters & the human body in general, & in especial the head of that body; but I propose, following this, to adapt some letters to the full view of the face, others to the half view, and others to the third, and this can be shown by graphic demonstration in the figure that follows, in which three faces only will be drawn, & afterward three letters with the three faces.

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